



VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
243 MAIN STREET • JOHNSON CITY, NY 13790
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Village Board

Gregory Deemie, Mayor
Bruce King, Deputy Mayor
Richard Balles, Trustee Martin Meaney, Trustee John Walker, Trustee

Minutes of a Work Session of the Johnson City Village Board held at 5:30pm on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 in the Municipal Building, 243 Main St., Johnson City

Present: Gregory Deemie, Mayor
 Bruce King, Deputy Mayor
 Richard Balles, Trustee
 John Walker, Trustee
 Martin Meaney, Trustee

Absent: None

Also Present: Cindy Kennerup, Village Clerk/Treasurer
 Jeff Jacobs, Attorney for the Village

The Board met with Tim Powers from Magna 5 to discuss telephone and internet service. Mr. Powers gave an overview of the company. Until about 6 months ago they were known as Cornerstone Telephone. They had been operating in CNY for 15 - 16 years. The company merged with a three other telephone companies in February of last year. They have 200 towns in NYS that they are with. For Johnson City they were tasked with looking at what we currently have for services and seeing if they could give us the same while saving money. He then reviewed the proposal they created for the Village. Trustee Meaney asked who they use for an internet provider. Mr. Powers stated that they in this area they will use Time Warner. Mr. Powers explained that they would give us 2 months at no cost. Their standard contract is 36 months but they will let us sign for 12 months to give them a try. Trustee Balles asked Mr. Powers to explain how he came up with the savings. Mr. Powers explained the comparison to the current Verizon bills and explained that there are some regulatory fees that everyone has to pay such as 911 fees. Mr. Powers stated that he thinks he could save the Village even more money over the long term if some changes are made, such as digital phones. There are 4 circuits (for water meters, etc.) that the Village has that they will need to get their engineers to work on. Mr. Powers also explained that they can set up the billing any way we want them to. Trustee Meaney asked if the phone numbers have been vetted yet and asked about the 911 lines. Mayor Deemie explained that Kim Cunningham is still waiting on an answer on that. Trustee Meaney asked about the internet service. Mr. Powers explains how the internet service works with Time Warner/Spectrum, cameras with the Static IP and reviewed the pricing structure. Trustee Balles asked about maintenance and service agreements. Mr. Powers stated that there is no maintenance agreement and explained how service calls are handled. Attorney Jacobs expressed concern and asked for clarification regarding termination of the contract. Mr. Powers explained that if during the term of the contract, there is a problem that they can't fix, in his experience, they would let the Village go without any issues. If it is a reason other than service then it will cost \$100/line for the balance of the term. Trustee Meaney asked how many companies do not renew at the end of their terms. Mr. Powers stated not many and those that do – it is usually because of prices not service. Trustee King asked how the one year contract is affected if we decided to add services a few months in. Mr. Powers explained that if we were to add services that do not require an installation there would be no changes. For other items they would have to talk with us.



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The Board met with Brent Beckley, President of JC Youth Baseball & Softball, John Kabat and Dan Coleman to discuss their plans for the ball fields. Mr. Beckley stated that their numbers are suffering and they need to make more use of CFJ Park for the minor leagues and T-Ball. They are not asking for Village for any funds. They are taking care of paying for everything they want to do. Budget fence has agreed to put 80 feet of fence, for free, down the first base and third base lines at CFJ. It would be a 7ft or an 8ft. high fence. They would like to turn that field into an all turf field and would bring in a clay and topsoil mixture, create a crown and then have sod laid down. The only dirt would be the cutouts at first, second and third base and home plate. This will cost \$6 – 9,000.00 and they have the funds. They are waiting to hear from Williamsport on a grant they applied for. It is a matching grant and if they are successful they will use it to build a new backstop which will be a domed backstop. Without the grant they will repair current backstop. Trustee Balles asked about fencing at center field. Mr. Beckley stated that there would not be a fence at center field. He asked if a temporary snow fence could be erected to keep people off of the field for a few weeks once the sod is laid because it takes a few weeks for it to take hold and be playable. Mayor Deemie stated that we could do that. Mr. Beckley asked about access to water. Mayor Deemie stated that there are spigots on the bathroom building. Trustee King asked if there was water at the concession stand. Mayor Deemie stated that he is not sure if it works. It has been off for a long time. Trustee Walker asked how this would affect the football and other programs that use the field. Mr. Beckley stated that it will be a bigger grass area to use. Trustee Meaney asked if they anticipate any maintenance issues for the Village and asked if they ever intend to complete the fence all the way around the field. Mr. Beckley stated that they don't intend to finish the fence. They may put up a snow fence during the season. Mayor Deemie stated that there is not enough depth for it to be a little league size field. Mr. Beckley stated that the fields will be used as practice fields for the 9-12 year olds with the condition that there be no batting practice, just field work. Trustee Balles asked about using the concession stand. Mr. Beckley stated that yes they would like to. Mayor Deemie stated that there is electric in there. Mr. Beckley asked what they need to do next. Mayor Deemie stated that they should coordinate with DPW. Trustee Balles stated that he feels we need to do a Parks Agreement with Little League for this and offered to put one together. Attorney Jacobs agreed that the agreement should be done. Mr. Beckley stated that the Village dumped large piles of snow next to the concession stand at Northside Park and that has caused flooding. He asked if the Village could put the snow elsewhere. Mayor Deemie said we would look into that. Batting Cages at Northside Park - Mr. Beckley explained that they are looking at a side by side batting cage that would have a concrete pad for the batters to stand on. The current cage would be completely removed. The cages would be packed away after the season is over. Attorney Jacobs stated that we will need to look at the agreement that was originally done for the current cage. Attorney Jacobs asked how the use of the cages will be controlled. Mr. Beckley explained that they cannot afford a fencing unit to surround the new cages. Preference was given to baseball and softball teams. This would be the same. Trustee Meaney suggested reaching out to Dick's Sporting Goods for assistance. Mr. Beckley explained that Dick's does donate cash every year and they have donated equipment as well. Tom Bedosky from Ground Round donated 200 baseballs and more than a dozen softballs to them. Mr. Beckley stated that they have 2 scoreboards that they purchased. Field clean-up day is scheduled for April 8th (Weather permitting). Opening Day for Little League is April 28th and opening day for softball is April 29th.

Fire District Protection Agreement – Mayor Deemie reminded the Board that the agreement needed to be changed. The Town has been notified that we were making the changes.

Mayor Deemie asked the Board if they wanted to go ahead with the CCA study. Trustee Meaney and Trustee King both stated that they do not like the fact that it is an opt-out program that we would be



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forcing residents into. Trustee King stated that if they were will to do an opt-in program that would be different.

Joint Sewage Treatment Plant – Trustee Walker explained that it was discussed at the meeting they attended – what is the percentage of nitrogen being dumped by the various municipalities. Trustee King stated that there are reports on that because it has to be measured. Trustee Meaney spoke about a \$20 million change order that the City of Binghamton, as lead agency, wanted to do for a BAF. Trustee King stated that they also changed the process. Trustee Walker asked if the litigation on the wall was still progressing. Attorney Jacobs stated yes it is and reviewed the most recent and future steps in the process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

A motion to enter into executive session at 6:43pm to discuss a pending matter before the New York State Public Employment Relations Board with the Police Benevolent Association was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Walker. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

A motion to exit the executive session at 7:02pm was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee King. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

The Board reviewed the agenda and the resolutions.

The Board discussed the recent snowstorm and the good job done by the DPW. Trustee Walker and Trustee Meaney asked how much help we received from the state and National Guard. Mayor Deemie stated that we did not receive any help from the National Guard because we didn't need it. The state did help us with some streets. Mayor Deemie explained the situation and history with Beverly Place that was in the news. We are doing the part of the street that is in the Village.

Mayor Deemie stated that he will have certificates for the JC Boys Basketball team at the next meeting. Trustee Meaney suggested doing them for the Seton Girls Basketball team as well since there are JC girls on that team.

The Trustees reported on the reference calls they made regarding Magna 5. The Board agreed to give the company a try for one year.

Mayor Deemie stated that he will invite Dan Feduke from the Plumbing Board to the next work session to talk about issues with the Board and the recent resignations.

Regarding the bills - Trustee Walker asked how long we are going to blame the flood for things. Mayor Deemie explained why they purchase of tools was necessary.

Trustee Walkers asked about the Lime Energy Company. Mayor Deemie stated that there is a cost to the Village so it will need to be discussed during the budget sessions.

Trustee Meaney asked if the Village could put a moratorium on employees going to Kovarik's to purchase items and reiterated his frustration. Trustee King stated that it looks like the DPW department were trying to spend down their lines. Clerk/Treasurer Kennerup stated that Laurie in DPW asked the guys who went to the store to get separate receipts. Trustees Meaney and



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Walker stated that they are the same budget lines for some of the items. Trustee Meaney stated that items such as broom handles and broom heads can still be bought in bulk. Items such as Dawn dish soap is not a specialty item. Clerk/Treasurer Kennerup stated she will look into it further. Trustee Walker stated that Kovarik's is probably not the best place to go to for grass seed. Trustee King stated that grass seed isn't something we stock and they probably don't price it out. Clerk/Treasurer Kennerup stated that they usually go to Agway's for grass seed. Trustee Meaney stated that, in this area, you don't put grass seed down until the middle to end of April. Clerk/Treasurer Kennerup stated that it was so warm a few weeks ago they were going to start putting it down. Trustee Walker stated he would second Trustee Meaney's idea of a moratorium. Trustee Meaney stated that he understands if it is a specialized item in an emergency. Trustee Walker stated that there should be one vendor for tools such as Snap On or Fastenal instead of spending time shopping at various places. Trustee Meaney stated that he feels it needs to be addressed.

Budget Meeting Number 1 is scheduled for 6pm on March 22, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned at 7:28pm.

Cindy Kennerup
Village Clerk/Treasurer

CK/db

Recordings of the Village Board meetings and work sessions are available for review through the Village Clerk/Treasurer's Office.